

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle

NordPol Brigade to rotate forces

By Spc. DANIEL PASCHALL
100th MPAD

They have been here since the start of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, working with the Americans, manning checkpoints, seeking mines and keeping peace. Much like their American allies, the midpoint of the operation for the NordPol Brigade will mean rotating troops and bringing in new personnel for the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Although the NordPol Brigade has adapted to the evolving IFOR mission, the infantry-heavy force will not undergo the same reshaping process as the Americans who are changing to a lighter more mobile force.

"We will be replacing the same units and doing the same tasks," said Lt. Col. Flemming Johansen, Danish senior liaison officer to the NordPol Brigade.

Attached to Task Force Eagle, the NordPol Brigade consists of Danes, Norwegians, Finns, Poles and Swedes. The brigade provides construction, infantry/armor, military police, medical and support units.

"They have been here since early in the operation and will keep strength until the expiration of the Dayton Peace Accord," Johansen said.

The brigade has played an important role in the evolving IFOR mission.

"The Finns have been rebuilding schools in Tesanj and other NordPol members are starting projects as far west as Lukavac, as far east as Teslic, and up to Slavonski Brod," said Maj. Jens Hagem, a Norwegian liaison officer to the NordPol Brigade.

The elections will be a major concern for the troops rotating into Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We will be assisting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe by ensuring free-

See **ROTATE**, page 12



1SM Benoit Roosen

A Norwegian soldier readies a Sissu armored personnel carrier. These soldiers are members of the NordPol Brigade.

Bosnian Federation Army set to get weapons and training

U.S.-led train and equip program not to involve IFOR troops

By Spc. AARON REED
100th MPAD

A U.S. led international program to help train and equip Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation defense forces is set to start in Sarajevo, President Bill Clinton announced recently.

"The program will help ensure that upon IFOR's departure, a military balance exists among the former warring parties so that none of them are encouraged to resume hostilities," Clinton said.

The train-and-equip program initially will deliver almost \$100 million of refurbished U.S. surplus equipment, including rifles, machine guns, radios, main battle tanks, armored personnel carriers, light an-

titank weapons and utility helicopters.

The program, in which neither Task Force Eagle nor IFOR will participate, officially kicked-off when federation officials signed a contract late last month with Virginia-based Military Professional Resources, Inc., a private U.S. company which will execute and manage the deal.

The program's start depended on the Bosnian government complying with a Dayton peace accord provision to withdraw foreign forces and end its intelligence cooperation with Iran. The federation also had to pass a law integrating its military forces and creating Western-oriented defense institutions.

Clinton said he certified the Bosnian government had met its commitments with regard to foreign forces and relations with Iran. The federation recently passed a law that "will strengthen security for all Bosnians and contribute to a lasting peace in the region," Clinton said.

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From the top

Iron soldiers always respect each other

An unfortunate incident has occurred in the area of operations.

A black soldier was allegedly assaulted and a racial epithet was written across his chest.

Although all the facts are not in, this type of incident will not be tolerated.

There is no room for racial hatred within our task force.

Let's not let this one incident destroy the great sense of camaraderie and teamwork we have built over the past eight months.

Respect and understanding are the cornerstones of the Defense Department's Equal Opportunity Program.

Every soldier must feel he or she is part of the team.

NCOs with the help of the EO advisors



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley
1st Armored Division

sors must ensure that soldiers are not being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or religion.

Sergeants must assist commanders and EO advisors in their efforts to identify potential problems.

Keep in mind that individuals, if they feel they are being discriminated against, have the right to redress those grievances with the equal opportunity representative.

The bottom line is that everyone will be treated with dignity and respect. It makes us stronger as a whole.

Contact these advisors if you have an EO concern.

1st Armored Division, Master Sgt. Edward Edmonds and Capt. Michael Mills, TFE EO officer, 558-5727.

Division Support Command, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Mechar 558-5727.

1st Brigade Combat Team, Sgt. 1st Class O.J. Plair, 551-1010/1240.

2nd Brigade Combat Team, First

Sgt. Eloy Alcivar, 551-6202.

4th Brigade Combat Team, Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Minor, 551-4010.

Division Artillery, Sgt. 1st Class Danny Migenes and **Division Engineers**, Sgt. 1st Class Buddy Best, 558-5826.

16th Corps Support Group, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Swinnie, 558-2748.

22nd Signal Brigade, Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Feliciano, 557-0114.

18th Military Police Brigade, Staff Sgt. John Brunzell, 559-5111.

205th Military Intelligence Brigade, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Smith, 337-6695.

Being proactive on equal opportunity is another way to take care of your troops. We are all professional soldiers.

Remember to treat others with dignity and respect.

Act on equal opportunity complaints promptly and take quick corrective action.

Iron soldiers respect each other.

Viewpoint

Belief in yourself is first step to success

In the second installment of the Star Wars movie trilogy "The Empire Strikes Back," Luke Skywalker, one of the movie's heroes, crash lands his X-wing fighter on a swampy planet while on a personal quest for spiritual guidance.

There he seeks out the Jedi Master Yoda to teach him the ways of the Force.

Luke wants to free the galaxy from the oppression of the tyrant Darth Vader.

Yoda reluctantly agrees to help Luke and begins by teaching him how to lift rocks using the Force.

Then one day, Yoda in-



Maj. (Chap.) Ray Bailey

crash landing on to the planet.

Luke doubts the possibility of such an occurrence and complains that lifting rocks is one thing, but lifting a starfighter is quite another.

Yoda insists that he try, and Luke half-heartedly attempts to raise the vessel but

ultimately fails because he doubts his ability.

Yoda then focuses his mind and uses the Force to lift the ship with ease.

Luke dismayed, exclaims, "I don't believe it!"

"That is why you couldn't lift it," Yoda replied.

"You didn't believe you could."

The summer Olympics have ended. Gold, silver and bronze medals were given out to the best overall athletes or teams in the world.

We saw them compete with a quick burst of energy to win or lose.

What we didn't see was the

countless hours of sweat and aches it took for each of them to be able to compete at such a high level of competition much less win.

Their winning came at a price.

Yes, it does take some natural ability, but that is only part of it. The key to winning believing that you can.

An unbelievable amount of people have winning at their fingertips whether it be in their jobs, family life, spiritual life, goals or aspirations.

Winning or losing could be only a belief away.

God believes in you. Do you believe in yourself?

THE TALON

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Soldier assault case under investigation

Task Force Eagle Criminal Investigation Division is investigating a report that an unknown number of males assaulted a black soldier as he was walking from the latrine to his quarters at 4:30 a.m. July 31 in Tent City 2 on Eagle Base. A racial epithet was written in ink on the soldier's chest.

The soldier was examined at the base aid station and released.

The incident has the complete interest and attention of the Task Force Eagle commander.

"Task Force Eagle has zero tolerance for incidents of this sort," said Lt. Col. Donna G. Boltz, spokeswoman for the Joint Information Bureau. "The command demands that every individual be treated with dignity and respect."

CID is vigorously pursuing an investigation into the incident.

"Immediately after the incident was reported, we assigned all four special investigation teams at Eagle Base to the case," said Maj. Dorothy M. Doyle, CID mission commander for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. "We have interviewed hundreds of people."

During the investigation, special agents inspected living areas, looking for clues.

"Our teams found no evidence of gang, hate or extremist paraphernalia in the tents," Doyle said.

In fact, agents wrote in their report that

soldiers interviewed had a positive attitude and were very helpful.

"The soldiers related that they were not aware of any prior racially motivated incidents," said Doyle.

Agents are still actively pursuing leads in the case. CID is asking anyone with information about the incident to step forward.

"People can contact us anonymously," said Doyle.

Eagle Base military police have taken aggressive steps to ensure that this remains an isolated incident.

"For two days after the incident we had a foot patrol around Tent City 2," said Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Hilyer, station commander with the 630th Military Police Company. "After that, we had our HMMWV patrols make routine checks of Tent City 2."

Military Police dedicate three roving patrols to law enforcement at Eagle Base. The MPs patrol 24 hours a day.

"There have been very few assaults in Task Force Eagle," said Doyle. "Most of our investigations have been minor things, really."

Hilyer echoed Doyle's observation. "We haven't had many assaults here at Eagle Base," he said. "But one is too many."

Criminal Investigation Division is still seeking information about the incident, and welcomes anonymous calls. Investigators can be reached at MSE 559-5137, 559-5129.

NEWS BRIEFS

Time for absentee voter registration

Now is the time to register to vote absentee for the upcoming American general election, Nov. 5.

Most states send absentee ballots to voters in September to allow time to complete and return the ballots.

To receive a ballot on time, requests for ballots should be sent in no later than August.

The process is easy and takes only a few minutes to complete.

Voters need to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and mail it to their local elections board at their stateside residence. The FPCA registers the voter and serves as a request for an absentee ballot.

Every Task Force Eagle unit down to detachment level has a voting assistance officer appointed and trained to assist soldiers in this process.

For further assistance, the Task Force Voting Assistance Officer, Capt. John F. Martin, can be reached at MSE phone 551-3382 or 551-3384.

Army's M2 Burner video coming soon

The 7th Army Training Command has produced a video on the M2 Burner unit.

The video is approximately 17 minutes long and covers proper procedures, troubleshooting and common problems.

At the conclusion of the video, the damage from several real-world accidents is shown.

The video should be distributed down to battalion level by the middle of August.

Your unit training or safety representative has further details.



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

An M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle crew from Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry stands guard at Checkpoint Charlie in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	89/61	Low
Sat	89/54	Low
Sun	75/54	Moderate
Mon	68/54	High
Tue	72/51	Moderate
Wed	75/54	Low
Thur	78/53	Low

Prepared August 7 by the 617th Weather Squadron

Eyes on sky spell force protection

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

CAMP COLT — The inconspicuous radar setup is easy to miss.

It may not seem very high-tech or important to most soldiers, but the equipment belonging to Battery C, 333rd Field Artillery provides force protection for hundreds of soldiers at Camp Colt.

"Most soldiers think we are

signal, because of our antennas," said Staff Sgt. Clinton R. Kennedy, fire finder radar section chief. "We don't have a round rotating dish. They don't understand that if we have incoming fire we're going to find out where it's coming from." The radar systems can pinpoint exact locations of the sources of firepower using digital transmissions.

The eight soldiers who

watch the skies around Camp Colt are bound for Camp Kime for a week-long live-fire exercise to provide radar coverage of the rounds going down range. Kennedy said that the exercise will help his soldiers by allowing them to perform their crew drills; including setting up and tearing down the system.

"We haven't been able to tear down our system because it's a force protection piece of

equipment and it's top priority that the radar stay up and operational to watch over everybody," Kennedy said. "Long-range radar systems from Camp Kime will provide protection for Camp Colt while we are gone."

Pfc. Peter J. Sawin, a radar operator, said that he has learned how to perform the many duties of his job during his first deployment.

"I haven't seen any field time back in Germany," he said. "This is definitely good training for me."

Sawin's daily routine involves cleaning out the radar system's many air filters that trap dust while the air blower fans keep the components from overheating.

The radar operators work six-hour rotating shifts listening for signals and watching the screen.

When the system tracks any aerial activity, the radar equipment pinpoints the location of fire.

"It's hard for me to explain to people back home what I do; it's complicated and technical," said Sawin.

Radar operations may be complicated and technical, but the end result is easy to understand.

"Force protection is everywhere — whether it's guard towers and sand bag bunkers or our spindly towers watching over us," Kennedy said.



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Staff Sgt. Clinton R. Kennedy (left), and Pfc. Peter Sawin, radar operators with Battery C, 333rd Field Artillery, maintain voice and data communications with their command elements.

Mission safety is a matter of life or death

By Capt. TODD D. LYLE
Task Force Eagle Safety Office

During the month of August, Task Force Eagle units will have a safety stand-down at the company or platoon level. This will be an excellent opportunity not only to prepare individual soldiers for redeployment, it will also be a good time to attack deferred maintenance and to get soldiers recertified or licensed on specific equipment.

Let's take full advantage of this opportunity. Do not become the unit featured in the following vignette:

It wasn't until the memorial service that Lt. Col. Smith was personally impacted by the deaths of Sgt. 1st. Class Roberts and Spc. McDonnell. The battalion, however, had been in a state of shock since their

deaths. Both soldiers were popular and two of the hardest working soldiers in the unit. They both possessed can-do attitudes.

Over the past 19 years in the service Smith had been to several memorial services; the roll call portion of the ceremony always left a lasting impression on him. This time however, it was the presence of Robert's daughter, Mattie, that was affecting him.

At 12 years old, she was the same age as his daughter Cindy. He wondered what would be the impact on Cindy's life if he were to die suddenly?

He thought to himself that it was awfully selfish to be thinking this way, especially at his own soldier's memorial service. As he continued to wonder about it all, he asked himself if there was anything that he could have done to prevent

the deaths of Roberts and McDonnell. What had happened?

Apparently, he, as well as the rest of his chain of command did play a role, albeit indirectly, in the accident that brought about the demise of Roberts and McDonnell. Smith's battalion, much like the Army as a whole, had been working under the guise of a zero defects mentality. They had indirectly been putting needless stress upon their unit in an attempt to impress their superiors.

The accident occurred on the second to last day of the unit's external evaluation. The unit's performance was just about average even though they had been pushed to near exhaustion.

In fact, the night before the accident, during convoy operations they had had two see **SAFETY**, page 12

■ ON THE ROAD IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

94th Engineers repair supply routes

By Spc.
CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

CAMP KIME — A soldier's job assignment here depends on where support is needed — even if that means not working in his or her field of expertise.

Some troops are given jobs where they are responsible for maintaining force protection, supply and other daily sustainment activities; however, there is one group of soldiers specifically qualified for the task at hand and they're sticking to what they do best.

Soldiers often curse the dusty, twisty, mortar-destroyed roads they travel on; it is the job of the combat engineers to build and repair these roads, making the ride easier on everyone.

Presently, Company B of the 94th Engineer Battalion is working to repair a 22-kilometer main supply route that starts near Camp McGovern and ends in Brcko.

According to 2nd Lt. Stephanie R. Arnold, platoon leader of Company B's earth moving platoon, the road is torn up from both IFOR tank travel and mortar damage that was done during the war.

"We have been working on this road since May for two reasons," Arnold said. "First, it has been selected as a main supply route. And second, the Dayton Peace Accord stipulates that since we travel these roads constantly and have actually helped in demolishing them, we are responsible for their repair and maintenance."

But Capt. Steven M. Howell said the main intent of all road work done by Task Force Eagle engineers is to support Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"The roads here are too narrow for our huge equipment. We need to expand them

so we can pass two-way traffic of our own," he said.

"By us developing the roads, indirectly it does benefit the community. The towns are more easily accessible; therefore, it fosters business, helps the economy and improves the quality of life for the people who live there," Howell said.

"There's more to filling a pothole than just pouring asphalt," said Spc. Joseph P. Shreckhise, a heavy equipment operator in the earth moving platoon.

"It is a multistep process that requires the hole to be cut, cleaned, filled and pressed so that it matches the existing road surface.

"Compounded with the summer heat, it's hard work," said Shreckhise. "The worst part is sitting out here doing nothing except for waiting for the asphalt to show up from Tuzla.

"At least when it arrives, we have a goal to accomplish ... then when we reach it, we go back in and get ready for the next day."

Working in the Zone of Separation is not an issue with the soldiers; however, there is concern among civilian laborers.

"Certain drivers are wary of entering areas that are Bosnian Serb held," said Howell.

"Brcko is controlled by the Bosnian Serbs and the closer we get, the more the Bosnian asphalt drivers get nervous.

"However, we escort them and keep good security and so far we haven't had any problems."

Some engineers wonder if they have a thankless job. But the company commander knows this isn't the case. "People recognize what the engineers can do," Howell said.

"When we first arrived, almost every truck out here needed repair or was dead-lined because of suspension damage.

"As we improve the roads, it not only makes life at the base camps more pleasant, but less of the soldier's time is spent in the motorpool fixing vehicles."



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Staff Sgt. Thomas G. Hood, heavy equipment supervisor of Company B, 94th Engineers, and 1st Sgt. James H. Cheney spread the hot patch evenly into the damaged road areas.

Certified field sanitation course to be held at Guardian Base in August

The 255th Medical Detachment will conduct a 40-hour Field Sanitation Team Certification Course, Aug. 26-29 at Guardian Base.

This course will help units meet their requirement for two trained soldiers per company. Course completion will earn soldiers 10 promotion points.

To request slots for this class, unit training officers can sub-

mit a prioritized name, rank, SSN list of soldiers to TF MED EAGLE, ATTN: 255TH MED DET (Camp Bedrock), or via email to bettinw@email.vicenza.army.mil. Slots will be given, two per company-sized unit, and on a first received basis.

Points of contact are Capt. William Bettin or Master Sgt. Lynn Valo at 558-5083/4930/4932.



Thunder rocks Resolute Barbara Ran

By Spc. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

RESOLUTE BARBARA RANGE — In an awesome display of military might, elements of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team held Exercise QUICK THUNDER II in front of members of the media as well as representatives of the United Kingdom and Bosnian Federation armies.

The mission of QUICK THUNDER II was to use the fire approval process as well as the integration and synchronization of indirect fire support from artillery, mortars, close air support, attack aviation and command and control of battlefield operating systems.

QUICK THUNDER II used a scenario in which a scout inspection team was denied access to a weapons storage site.

As the situation escalated, the factional unit opened fire on the scout inspection team and a mechanized battalion moved out of the cantonment area.

The rogue mechanized battalion continued the movement, attacking and seizing a key village south of the inter-entity boundary line.

Col. John R.S. Batiste, the 2nd Brigade commander, executed the concept plan to mass the combat power



The enemy mechanized battalion
 approached the engagement area, a
 combination of attack and scout he-
 licopter laid on an aerial assault,
 while heavy mortar and 155 mm ar-
 tillery, engaged the enemy while A-
 10 Thunderbolt aircraft provided
 close air support.

ge

needed to destroy the mechanized
battalion attack.

The enemy mechanized battalion
approached the engagement area, a
combination of attack and scout he-
licopter laid on an aerial assault,
while heavy mortar and 155 mm ar-
tillery, engaged the enemy while A-
10 Thunderbolt aircraft provided
close air support.

The result was an intense display
of synchronized firepower as the

rogue mechanized battalion was de-
stroyed.

“We are out here honing our
skills to synchronize combat pow-
er,” said Batiste.

“The idea is that the brigade will
always be prepared to defend itself
and protect the force,” Batiste said.

“If called upon — and when or-
dered — we will compel compliance
with the Dayton Peace Accord.”

Batiste said the combat team is

extremely well trained, whether to
compel compliance with the Dayton
Peace Accord or to protect the
force.

QUICK THUNDER II was the sec-
ond exercise conducted by the 2nd
Brigade since deploying to Bosnia-
Herzegovina.

“Every time we do something like
this, it involves significant rehears-
al and training,” said Batiste. “To
that extent it is always very good.”

Troop swap keeps engineers busy

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

Reshaping, base closure and relocation don't necessarily mean less work in the future. As a result of reshaping the force some units are returning to Germany, while others are relocating to new sites in the Tuzla Valley.

The Lukavac area is a flurry of activity as departing service-members gather their possessions and move to new destinations.

As the soldiers of Companies A and C, 16th Combat Engineer Battalion, break down Camp Punxsutawney, the engineers of Company B, 1st Platoon, 94th Engineer Battalion, jump into a new mission expanding Guardian Base.

Scheduled for closure is Camp Punxsutawney.

The same camp that once housed almost 2,400, now is home to fewer than 1,000 troops and the number is quickly decreasing.

To prepare for the relocation, the 94th Engineers are constructing living quarters and classrooms at Guardian Base.

"We are in the process of putting up 10 tents, eight of which will be used for billeting and two for classrooms.

In addition to these, Brown & Root just constructed four and are building nine others," said Sgt. 1st Class Robin S. Pennington,

platoon sergeant of 1st Platoon, Company B.

Pennington said the tents were dismantled at Lukavac.

"Almost everything is being re-used including the wiring, light fixtures, rafters, and walls," she said.

When dismantling the tents, the 16th Engineers left together several of the larger portions of the tent frame.

"It was nice that everything wasn't taken apart so we don't have to totally reassemble it," said 2nd Lt. Erika Ungern, platoon leader, 1st Platoon, Company B.

"It definitely saves us time during the reconstruction process."

There were lessons learned during this project.

"One of the most time-consuming parts of this project is trying to get the bottom of the tent level," said Ungern.

"The first day, we did it the old-fashioned way."

The time was cut by three hours after the soldiers used a survey tool instead of a string and measuring tape.

Brown & Root assisted in the project.

"They removed the electrical wiring and fixtures before the tents at Punxsutawney came down, and they palletized and banded the tent packages," Ungern said.



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Pfc. Jason M. Gemmer, a carpenter and mason with Company B, 94th Engineers, 1st Battalion, secures a top rail in preparation for the installation of a wall piece.



Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Kappmeyer

Air Force Capt. Michael D. Millen (left) and Senior Airman Miguel A. Folch contact the Air Support Operations Center regarding an air request using tactical satellite communications equipment.

Airmen land bombs in joint exercise

By Sgt. 1st Class BRIAN KAPPMAYER
350th MPAD

GLAMOC, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Many soldiers may not know why these uniformed people with different enlisted rank insignia are working and living with the Army, but Army commanders depend on their presence daily.

“Our mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina is to advise and assist ground commanders with close-air support,” said Senior Airman Miguel A. Folch, battalion tactical air command and control specialist.

Folch, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., and Capt. Michael D. Millen, of Marietta, Ga., helped demonstrate the Air Force’s air support capabilities here at a recent Joint Air Attack Team exercise called QUICK THUNDER II.

The team was responsible for providing close air support during the JAAT operation by requesting aircraft for the air mission commander and guiding the pilots to selected targets.

Two A-10 attack jets and two Jaguar fighter jets were integrated into other elements of the attack team involving mortars, field artillery, and Army helicopters including OH-58D Kiowa Warriors and AH-64 Apaches.

“Bringing Air Force assets into a combat situation is a significant combat multiplier by providing a quick, fast response,” said Maj. Harry C. Garner, one of the JAAT coordinators, 2nd Brigade Combat Team fire support officer. “You can’t stop it when all of the military elements come together in this type of operation.”

The approval and coordination for close air support is provided by the Combined Air Operations Center in Vicenza, Italy. “To direct pilots to targets, the CAOC gives

the pilots the big map picture and we give them the little map picture,” said Folch. “It is like giving somebody directions to your town — the CAOC gets the pilots to the state where the town is located and we get them to the town or area where the target is identified. Getting pilots on target is some of the best training we are receiving.”

Folch said close-air support is one of the most dangerous weapons on the battlefield. “Think about it this way — if you have an aircraft coming at you at 500 knots and it starts firing its guns, or it drops a bomb, you know you’re in trouble,” said Folch.

As an A-10 attack pilot with the 81st Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Millen is getting a different picture as an air liaison officer.

“I’m gaining more knowledge of what the Army does — what goes happens on the ground with the commander and his staff. It is an expanded picture of what is going on with the air battle,” Millen said.

Millen, on a 120-day tour, who will return later this year as a pilot, said this tour has given him a greater appreciation for the guys on the ground.

“A lot of guys are working hard,” said the 1990 Air Force Academy graduate. “It’s amazing that the commanders, their staffs and the NCOs have kept this up for this long and they’ll keep it up through December.”

Folch said some soldiers are surprised airmen are working and living with the Army.

“The average soldier doesn’t know we exist until training like this,” he said. “Some people think we are air traffic controllers. In fact, we are the ultimate air traffic controllers — we land the bombs.”

Bosnia briefs

■ There was an explosion on a small traffic and pedestrian bridge about three kilometers south of Doboj.

The bridge is just north of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line on the Serb side. The bridge was damaged during the war and rebuilt by Romanian engineers to connect the Sarajevo-Zenica-Maglaj-Doboj route.

Damage from the blast left it impassable to vehicles, but still usable by pedestrians. There were no injuries. The bridge has reopened.

■ The International Police Task Force informed IFOR the Croat police station in Doljani, west of Jablanica, in the Multinational Division South Sector, had a considerable amount of weapons stored inside.

A French patrol followed the IPTF to the station and seized a 106mm recoilless rifle, anti-tank weapons, grenades, mortars, mines, and about 20 assault rifles.

■ In the Task Force Eagle sector, the Minister of Health of Tuzla and about 20 health professionals attended a World Health Organization meeting to discuss the plan to upgrade the medical capabilities within the division’s area of operations.

■ As the elections approach, the restructuring of the force begins in earnest with the redeployment of a Multiple Launch Rocket System unit.

Over the course of the next three weeks, about 100 M-1 tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles will return to Germany, to be replaced by about 200 military police HMMWVs.

■ IFOR is now focusing on support for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its task of carrying out the Sept. 14 elections.

All three multinational divisions continue to identify and undertake reconnaissance of polling station locations.

IFOR has identified 3,300 sites of an anticipated 4,000 locations. IFOR is also supporting the OSCE voter education program.

By election time, IFOR will have produced more than 75 radio spots and 12 television broadcasts on election issues.

The Herald of Peace, the bilingual Bosnia newspaper, with a distribution of 100,000 copies, has published 36 articles so far on the elections and in the coming month will publish another 24.

Hungarian pontoon bridge spans Sava River

By Staff Sgt. ANNA M. PRUSAITIS
100th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH, Croatia — When most people think of a bridge, they think of a solid structure that spans an obstacle. Brooklyn Bridge and the Golden Gate come to mind. But a floating pontoon bridge at Slavonski Brod is providing passage over the Sava River for IFOR's operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

All of the solid bridges along the Sava were heavily damaged or destroyed as a result of the war.

Hungarian army engineers assembled the bridge May 22, giving IFOR an alternate, shorter route for troop movement.

Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR's multinational flavor is evident by the keepers of the bridge.

It is owned, maintained and operated by a Hungarian pontoon bridge company, while America's 316th Support Center, Rear Area Operations Center provides command and control for the bridge.

The 272nd Military Police Company is in charge of security and has traffic checkpoints at both sides of the bridge. Finland's Construction Brigade also provides security on the south side of the bridge.

Norwegian medics from a field hospital based in Tuzla provide medical support. "Not much to do here, and that is

good. No one is getting hurt," said Geir Engersto, a medic driver with the Norwegian Field Hospital.

Only IFOR personnel and equipment and approved relief organizations use the bridge. Croatian police on the north side ensure that there are no communication problems with Croatian citizens.

With IFOR preparing for the reshaping of troops, the amount of traffic using the bridge will increase significantly.

Currently, the bridge is 220 meters long; however, it is capable of being extended to 360 meters if necessary.

"Water levels are very critical. Each water bay is pumped out daily if necessary. The anchor ropes are also checked daily for tightness," said Capt. Laszlo Budai, platoon leader of the Hungarian unit.

To date, the majority of the vehicles using the pontoon bridge have been wheeled vehicles; however, a few tracked vehicles have been allowed on the bridge.

Operating hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Troops who need to go across past that time have to get permission," said Maj. William Ramos, from El Paso, Texas, the operations officer for the 316th.

The pontoon bridge is closed when large tracked vehicles or any vehicle over 60 tons has to be rafted upstream.

The 316th RAOC, is a U. S. Army Re-

serve unit based in Bamberg, Germany. Many of the unit members speak several languages, including Russian, Italian and German.

Lt. Col. John Negron, commander of the rear operations unit, said that having access to several languages has proven to be quite helpful in communicating with IFOR's multinational units.

"This is a unique operation in that you have an IFOR nation that is not a member of NATO participating, and that is Hungary," said Negron, who is from New York City. "They (the Hungarians) are doing all they can to make this mission succeed."

Force protection is necessary to the success of every mission, and the Finnish Construction Battalion based in Valkeala, Finland ensures that the perimeter is secured.

The 272nd MPs, based in Mannheim, Germany, also assist with security by patrolling the area of operation.

"Keeping the pontoon bridge operational involves a great deal of coordinating and working together," said Negron.

"You have a multinational force crossing the bridge, Danes providing the screening force, Finnish in place protecting the bridge, American command and control over the bridge and American engineers working hand-in-hand with Hungarian engineers. This is quite an operation."



Staff Sgt. Anna M. Prusaitis

A U.S. Army HEMTT prepares to cross the Hungarian pontoon bridge over the Sava River. The bridge connects Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina near Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE

Red Cross helps soldiers in need

By Staff Sgt.
ANNA M. PRUSAITIS
100th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH, Croatia — The red-colored cross is a symbol that is easily recognized throughout the world for an entity that offers help. It's no surprise, then, to see American Red Cross personnel with Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The primary mission of the Red Cross here is to handle the emergency communications concerning the immediate family back home. Carolyn Seldon, director of operations for the team here, said the Red Cross handles serious family problems and even birth announcements. "We give good news as well as bad news," said Seldon.

Seldon, from Phoenix, has been with the American Red Cross for 25 years. During that time she has deployed three times, to include operations UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, in Haiti and JUST CAUSE, in Panama.

"In addition ... we try to do things which will contribute to the quality of life for the soldiers," said Seldon. "We have

coffee and refreshments on a 24-hour basis."

The teams try and provide servicemembers with "comfort kits" and some goodies that come in from Red Cross stations and chapters all over the world. The "comfort kits" include personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, disposable razors, soap, deodorant and wash cloths.

The Red Cross teams get their support from the American Red Cross national headquarters located in Falls Church, Va. "We are in direct communication with them to let them know of anything that we need," said Seldon.

"The headquarters then sends messages to all of the Red Cross stations throughout the world to let them know that we, here in Slavonski Brod, need candy or cookies, magazines, paperback books, games, cards ... that is where all of the things come from."

Servicemembers deployed to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR can rest assured that in case of emergencies their families can immediately reach them through the



Staff Sgt. Anna M. Prusaitis

Leslie Smith, assistant station manager for the new Red Cross team at Slavonski Brod, sends email while Ray Galas looks on. (Background) Cecil Goodman files cases.

American Red Cross.

In some cases it is the servicemembers who needs to reach families quickly, as with a recent case.

"We are the communications link between the servicemembers and their families back home, no matter how far away they are.

"The American Red Cross

will always have a presence if our troops are deployed," said Al Oliver, who also deployed to the desert conflict.

"We know everybody is on a mission here.

"We just try to spread a little sunshine that will help them endure their tour," Oliver said. "Maybe we can bring a little of home this way," he added.

Soldiers need to update Servicemen's Group Life Insurance

By Capt. RICHARD J.R. RALEIGH JR.
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Two hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money. You wouldn't want that much of your money going to someone you don't like.

To make sure that your Servicemen's Group Life Insurance proceeds are distributed according to your wishes, it's important to properly identify your beneficiaries.

Many soldiers don't give enough attention to identifying beneficiaries. Problems can occur when soldiers fail to designate any beneficiary.

Furthermore, the "By-Law" designation is no longer authorized.

Soldiers whose SGLI form still contains the "By-Law" designation

should make an update.

To ensure that your SGLI proceeds are paid according to your intent, you should consider the following information:

Soldiers must now identify their beneficiaries by name on their SGLI election form (SGLV-8286).

If you currently have the "By-Law" designation on your SGLI election form, you are not required to change it, but your insurance money may go to the wrong people.

You may change a beneficiary at any time, even without the knowledge or consent of the beneficiary. This right cannot be waived or restricted.

However, no designation or change of beneficiary will be valid unless you complete and sign a new SGLI elec-

tion form and it is received by your Uniformed Service before your death.

This article is intended to provide general information only.

If you have any specific questions, you should consult the Legal Assistance Office nearest you.

- TF Eagle Main, Tuzla Air Base – 551-3394/7331
- TF Eagle Rear, Slavonski Brod 551-3597/3594
- 1st Brigade – 552-5852
- 2nd Brigade – 551-2207
- 4th Brigade/18th MP Brigade – 551-4061
- 16th Corps Support Group – 558-2652

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dom of movement and providing security for the elections," he said.

Among the troops rotating out in August will be Finns and Danes.

The entire Swedish Battalion will rotate in October.

Poland and Norway rotated in June.

"The same numbers will be coming in to replace the leaving troops," Hagen said.

Johansen said there would be no change of command at the brigade level during any of the rotations.

Military housing funds increase

(ARNEWS) DoD has put "a very bright laser beam" on military housing and gotten a lot of people interested in housing initiatives worldwide.

"Base commanders are using their base funds for improved housing.

Committee chairmen in Congress are putting in additional money for housing — all of that on top of the extra funds put into DoD's budget as a result of the quality of life initiative launched over a year ago," said Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.

About 2,300 family housing units and 13 support facilities will be built or modernized.

Another 4,100 family housing units will be improved. Five fitness centers will be built or modernized.



Spc. Craig Pickett

Spc. Shawn M. Russell spots Pfc. Chad E. Painter, from the 40th Engineer Battalion, while they work out their arms and chest at Lodgement Area Pat.

Weights give soldiers lift

By Spc. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

CAMP LISA — With the hectic schedules that everyone keeps, squeezing in physical fitness training is sometimes a chore. But a little motivation goes a long way.

No matter where they go, Pfc. Chad E. Painter, 19, and Spc. Shawn M. Russell, 21, find time to workout.

The two are drivers with the 40th Engineer Battalion based at Camp Lisa. They do a lot of traveling and don't have a set time for physical training. Therefore, they exercise when and where they can.

During their visits to different U.S. military camps in Bosnia, they have the opportunity to workout while their supervisor is taking care of business.

"The commander is OK with it," said Russell, from Mazomanie, Wis., "as long as it does not interfere with our job."

Both soldiers say working out keeps them in shape mentally as well as physically.

"Working out is a good way to take out stress and aggression," Russell said. "The key will be to maintain a workout schedule once we return to our duty stations back home" Painter said. "We've had to be creative and take some initiative when it comes to keeping fit."

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near misses involving two separate vehicles where the drivers had fallen asleep. The night of the accident the drivers were all a little anxious. They had taken the sergeant major's threat of having to work through the weekend, if they did not make their SP/RP times, seriously.

The unit failed to make their RP time due to an accident.

After literally sifting through the wreckage and the records of the unit, the accident investigation board from Fort Rucker, Ala determined that although the vehicle the deceased were traveling in had not been properly maintained; the death of the two soldiers was caused by human factors.

McDonnell had fallen asleep at the wheel while traveling at a high rate of speed. In the end, their deaths would be added to the overall statistics of the entire U.S. Army. Eighty

percent of all U.S. Army accidents are due to human error!

The board's findings included negligence on the part of the battalion maintenance organization, the motor sergeant, and the training NCO. The maintenance records and drivers training programs were maintained haphazardly at best. "Upon initial review things appeared to be in order," Smith said.

The battalion commander was reprimanded for two separate yet related counts.

First for having "allowed" soldiers in his unit to operate vehicles without the proper training and licensing and for "allowing" the operation of vehicles that had not been properly maintained.

Smith's leadership and the positive leadership of his officers and NCOs could have prevented the accident that led to the deaths of Roberts and McDonnell.

This fictional story is based upon multiple, real-life case histories. Let's not make it factual during our redeployment.